

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 007642

R 031155Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5944

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1190

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED ON BEHALF CONGEN BELFAST: QUOTE"

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, UK (N.I.)

SUBJ: ARMY COMMANDER NORTHERN IRELAND DENIES WITHDRAWAL POSSIBILITY.

1. GENERAL SIR FRANK KING, COMMANDER OF U.K. ARMED FORCES NORTHERN IRELAND (N.I.) TOLD CONSUL GEN AUGUST 29 THAT THERE NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY OF PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL THESE FORCES. HMG HAS NO INTENTION DOING SO, THERE NO POPULAR PRESSURE BRITAIN FOR WITHDRAWAL AND ARMY INTENDS TO LEAVE WITH PRIDE WHEN THE JOB IS FINISHED, HE SAID. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF BRITISH PUBLIC SOLIDLY IN SUPPORT MILITARY EFFORT N.I. GENERAL SAID HE HAD RECENTLY EXTENDED HIS OWN TOUR SIX MONTHS OR UNTIL AUGUST 1975. HE DOES INTEND REDUCE FORCE STRENGTH BY TWO BATTALIONS NEAR FUTURE.

2. GENERAL KING CITED STATISTICS TO SUPPORT CONTENTION MILITARY EFFORT SUCCEEDING IN PROVINCE: NUMBER SHOOTING INCIDENTS REDUCED DRAMATICALLY IN PAST TWO YEARS, NO BOMBINGS IN BELFAST SINCE AUGUST 2 (THROUGH AUGUST 29; THERE WERE SEVERAL LARGE ONES IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS), AND IMPROVEMENT IN CONVICTION-TO-ARREST RATION. GENERAL ASCRIBED SUCCESSES PRIMARILY TO EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE WORK. HE STATED IRA PROVISIONALS COMPLETELY PENETRATED BUT ADMITTED  
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TO MORE DIFFICULTY WITH GROUPS "ON THE OTHER SIDE." HE DENIED

TROOPS PRACTICED DELIBERATE HARASSMENT ANY SEGMENT POPULATION BUT  
ACKNOWLEDGED SEARCH TECHNIQUES HIGHLY IRRITATING AT TIMES.

3. GENERAL ASCRIBED HIGH MORALE IN ARMED FORCES AS PARTLY DUE  
SUCCESES, AND PARTLY DUE CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT PROCESS BY WHICH  
THERE FEWER UNITS PRESENT IN N.I. AND THERE LONGER INTERVAL BET-  
WEEN TOURS OF DUTY. GENERAL STATED SICKNESS RATE AMONG TROOPS N.I.  
ONLY FORTY PERCENT THAT IN BRITAIN AND THAT MORE SOLDIERS KILLED  
ON GERMAN HIGHWAYS AND IN TRAINING THAN IN N.I.

4. GENERAL GAVE NO RPT NO INDICATION OF ANY DIFFERENCES OPINION  
WITH SECRETARY STATE REES. HE EXPLAINED HIS NON-ATTENDANCE AT  
SECURITY CONFERENCE THEN TAKING PLACE AT STORMONT CHAIRED BY REES  
AS INABILITY ATTEND ALL SUCH MEETINGS, THEREFORE HE ATTENDED  
NONE. IN THIS MEETING WITH POLITICAL GROUP HE BEING REPRESENTED  
BY A MAJOR. AT ANOTHER POINT IN CONVERSATION GENERAL STRESSED  
ARMY FOLLOWING EXACTLY REES STRICTURES ON ARREST AND INTERNMENT  
PROCEDURES. SUSPECT MUST HAVE FOUR INCIDENTS RECORDED AGAINST HIM  
BEFORE ARMY MAKES RECOMMENDATION TO ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY FOR  
ARREST. SPICER. UNQUOTE.  
MOORE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974DUBLIN01190  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, UK, (KING, FRANK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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